



Washington State Office of Public Defense

June 16, 2021

Open Until Filled

Exempt Recruitment

Full time managing attorney for Juvenile Legal Consulting Services

\$98,000 to \$110,000 annually

*Washington State Office of Public Defense
Olympia, Washington
www.opd.wa.gov*

About OPD

The Washington State Office of Public Defense (OPD) is an independent judicial branch agency committed to implementing the constitutional and statutory guarantees of counsel and to ensure the effective and efficient delivery of indigent defense services funded by the state.

Located in Olympia, OPD employs 22 professionals who administer client-service contracts and technical assistance in several statewide programs, including parents' representation, sex offender civil commitment, indigent appeals, and local public defense improvement under RCW 10.101. OPD directly contracts with more than 250 attorneys and independent social work specialists statewide. In addition, OPD administers state grant funding and technical assistance to all 39 counties and approximately 40 cities throughout the state.

OPD is dedicated to excellence in indigent defense, and we seek talented candidates who share this commitment to client-centered service. We value employees who bring diverse backgrounds in education, employment, community activities, and life experiences.

About the Position

OPD seeks a full-time Managing Attorney to administer a new Juvenile Legal Consulting Service, as required by [House Bill 1140](#). Enacted by the Washington Legislature in 2021, HB 1140 requires that all youth statewide be provided with an attorney consultation prior to any waiver of constitutional rights when law enforcement: (1) questions a youth during a custodial interrogation; (2) detains a youth based on probable cause of criminal activity; or (3) requests that the youth provide consent to an evidentiary search.

The new position will be responsible for recruiting, training, and administering contracts for a statewide network of qualified defense attorneys to provide the telephonic juvenile consultations required by [House Bill 1140](#). The Managing Attorney will also track and report on data collected in the Juvenile Legal Consulting Service.

The Managing Attorney work site is at the OPD office in downtown Olympia, with periodic travel required, including occasional overnight travel. Flex time and partial work-from-home options may be available.

The Managing Attorney will join a team responsible for OPD's Public Defense Improvement Program. This team administers state grant funding to city and county governments for public defense improvements, provides technical assistance on public defense administration, and hosts multiple CLEs each year including the Juvenile Defense Training Academy and the Criminal Defense Training Academy. The team's work is expanding in 2021 to include the Juvenile Legal Consulting Service, as well as distribution of resources to counties for *State v. Blake* defense representation.

Minimum Qualifications

- Member in good standing of the Washington State Bar Association or another State Bar Association.
- Experience or interest in promoting systemic change in the criminal and/or juvenile justice system.
- At least three years criminal law experience, including defending youth in juvenile court.
- Experience working with youth and communicating legal concepts in developmentally appropriate ways.
- Experience in suppression motion practice and a firm understanding of Fourth Amendment principals as they pertain to youth.
- Experience or interest in how adolescent brain development impacts decisions and behavior of youth.
- Experience or interest in how race, gender national origin, disability, and class intersect to create disparities for youth experiencing law enforcement intervention in their lives.
- Must be able to develop and sustain respectful professional relationships with a diverse community of contract attorneys, local officials (including law enforcement), state legislators, and others.
- Ability to prioritize tasks, and to function independently as well as part of a team in a collaborative environment.
- Proficient computer skills and the ability to become proficient in the use of specialized case management and data tracking tools.
- Excellent writing and proofreading skills. Must be proficient in writing high quality legal documents as well as reports for a lay audience.

Desired Qualifications

- Experience recruiting and contracting for government legal services.
- Experience implementing anti-racist legal strategies.
- Experience advocating about barriers faced by Black, Brown, Indigenous, and other youth of color.
- Experience developing and delivering attorney training programs.

General Responsibilities

- Exercise mature judgment in potentially sensitive, high-stress situations.
- Participate in and foster a collaborative working environment at OPD.
- Diligently follow attorney and state employee ethics requirements.
- Conduct all activities with the highest degree of professionalism in furtherance of OPD's mission to implement the constitutional and statutory guarantees of counsel.

Compensation

\$98,000 to 110,000 annually, DOQ.

Washington State employees receive a comprehensive benefit package that includes retirement, options for deferred compensation, and a full array of health, dental and life insurance coverage as well as pre-tax flexible spending accounts.

Application Process

Interested candidates should submit the following by email to Nicole Dodge at Nicole.Dodge@opd.wa.gov :

1. Letter of interest describing your specific qualifications for the position.
2. Current résumé and a list of at least three professional references, at least one of whom can speak to your experience working with youth.
3. Writing sample.
4. [Application for State Jobs](#) (Word file) (Rev. 6/4/19)

Honoring diversity, equity, and inclusion means that as an agency, and as individuals, we are committed to ensuring that all employees enjoy a respectful, safe, and supportive working environment.

The Washington State Office of Public Defense vigorously pursues diversity in the work force. Women, racial and ethnic minorities, persons over 40 years of age, LGBTQ, persons with disabilities, and military veterans are encouraged to apply.